(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) During 2004-05 and 2005-06 (up to 10th February, 2006 when the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 came into effect) 7 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were notified. Since 10th February, 2006, 234 valid formal approvals have been granted of which 101 SEZs have been notified.

(b) and (c) Total land in the 234 formal approvals granted after 10th February, 2006 is about 33,800 hectares. In all these cases, there was no fresh acquisition of land resulting in displacement since land was in possession of either the State Governments, State Industrial Development Corporations or with the private developers. In the 101 SEZs notified so far, an investment of Rs. 35,145 crores has been made.

(d) and (e) Various issues pertaining to SEZ policy, including acquisition of land, has been considered by the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) and it has been decided to request the Ministry of Rural Development to reformulate a comprehensive Land Acquisition Act to address all relevant issues and to work out a comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy ensuring livelihood from the project to at least one person from each displaced family.

TRQ for duty free import of vanaspati

3675. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 720 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th November, 2006 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement immediately their own recommendations regarding fixing of Tariff rate quota for duty free import of vanaspati from Sri Lanka so that the 256 Indian vanaspati industries are not wiped-out; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Under India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA), vanaspati was

under the free list and unlimited amount could have been imported at zero duty. After prolonged negotiations, Government has now formalized Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) with Sri Lanka, under which 2,50,000 MT of vanaspati including bakery shortening and margarine will be imported from Sri Lanka per year. This TRQ will be monitored by Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) as per the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP). TRQ will also be distributed equally amongst four quarters to ensure a steady supply of vanaspati, bakery shortening and margarine. To ensure quality control of vanaspati, it has been mandated that all imports of vanaspati will have to adhere to the requirements of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act.

(b) Does not arise.

SEZs in West Bengal

3676. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has put on hold all the SEZ projects which have been sanctioned; and

(b) if so, how many SEZs have been sanctioned for West Bengal and the objections raised in respect of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Seven formal approvals and 14 in-principle approvals have been granted for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in West Bengal.

Pace of industrial production

†3677. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that industries registered an average growth of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.